



*Herbert A. Philbrick, for years a counterspy for the FBI inside the Communist party, testifies before the House Un-American Activities Committee on communist Affairs about 1950.*

Name:	Herbert Arthur Philbrick
Date of Birth/Details:	5/11/1915
Residence:	12 Chapel Road, North Hampton, NH
Date of Death/Details:	8/16/1993, North Hampton, NH

Between 1977 and 1979, Herbert Arthur Philbrick was Store Manager for Fletcher's Paint Works in Hampton, N. H. A local resident recalled that Philbrick owned the Rye General Store at Jenness Beach, easily identified by its awning bearing the title of his television drama, "I Led Three Lives." For several years he resided at 12 Chapel Road, North Hampton, a home built in the early 1900's. From 1982 to about 1989, he was court reporter and free-lance writer for Rockingham County, N. H. newspapers.

Herb Philbrick became a double-agent for the FBI and one of the leading anticommunist spokesmen from the 1950's. The account of his involvement remains in dispute today, as evidenced by the disclaimers of the internet biographical stories of his life.

Herb Philbrick was a Boston assistant advertising director of the Paramount Theaters Division of New England. Acting as a citizen volunteer, he successfully infiltrated the Communist Party USA between 1940 and 1949. His involvement began when he joined a communist front group in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Cambridge Youth Council. His suspicions aroused by the strange power structure and positions taken by this group, Philbrick contacted the FBI and encouraged by them, began deepening his involvement in Communist activities, joining first the Young communist League and later, as a secret member, the Communist Party itself. Acting as a double agent, he rose to the highest ranks of the Communist Party until he testified in 1949 in federal court as a surprise witness against eleven Communist party leaders indicted for violation of the Smith Act.

Philbrick was used by the Party for his advertising skills. Another asset was his public role as a Baptist youth leader. He spent time in local party cells in Wakefield and Malden, Massachusetts. He received training in the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism and worked for the Party in a variety of front groups. Later he was removed from local party work and assigned to a cell of professionals where his main work consisted of working on the Progressive Party campaign of former vice-president Henry A. Wallace.



*Herbert Arthur Philbrick, far left, is holding the hand of his cousin, William Rodman Philbrick Jr. The boy on the right is their cousin Douglas Keys. This photo was taken about 1926/27 at the Pagoda Cottages in Rye Beach, New Hampshire.*



*The Philbrick family in 1952 (left to right) Dale Lorraine (9), Sandra Ruth (10), Herbert, Mrs. Eva Philbrick, Leslie Sue (2), Brenda Mae (6), and Constance Anne (11).*

In 1952 he published his autobiography I Led 3 Lives: Citizen, "Communist," Counterspy. He was technical advisor for the popular television series based on this book, which aired 1953 to 1956. Among his many other accomplishments, for many years he continued to lecture on anticommunist topics and publish a syndicated column "Red Underground" for the New York Herald Tribune.

Sources: [http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~nvjack/fylbrigg/herbert\\_arthur\\_philbrick.htm](http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~nvjack/fylbrigg/herbert_arthur_philbrick.htm)

[http://www.philbrick-genealogy.org/1900\\_1999.htm](http://www.philbrick-genealogy.org/1900_1999.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert\\_Philbrick](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Philbrick)

<http://www.larchmontgazette.com/guide/history/1954/1954philbrick.html>

Interview with Marion Baron, 12 Chapel Road, North Hampton, NH

Other info: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/service/mss/eadxmlmss/eadpdfmss/2003/ms003015.pdf>